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Twenty-sixth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to resolution 1933 (2010), by which the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) until 31 December 2010 and requested the Secretary-General to provide a midterm report no later than 22 October 2010 and a full report no later than 30 November. The midterm report, which focused on developments related to the establishment of the final voters list and its certification by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, was issued on 18 October 2010 (see S/2010/537). The present report covers major developments since the report of the Secretary-General of 20 May 2010 (S/2010/245) and provides an update on electoral developments since the midterm report.

II. Security situation

2. During the period under review, the overall security situation in Côte d'Ivoire remained stable but still fragile, given the ongoing sensitive electoral process and the unresolved aspects of the peace process, including the uncompleted disarmament and reintegration of former combatants and the reunification of the country. The crime rate has remained high in most areas of the country, with an increase in the west. Unidentified individuals armed with assault rifles and machetes attacked private homes and public transport vehicles, with a minimum of 62 attacks reported in the regions of Abidjan, Abengourou, Bangolo, Bouaké, Duékoué, Guiglo, Korhogo and Odienné. The attacks, which resulted in the deaths of 11 persons and in serious injuries to several others, created a sense of persistent insecurity and in many instances were accompanied by grave human rights abuses, including sexual violence and the reported rape of 12 women and girls.

3. Militia groups were reportedly more active in the period preceding the elections, during which they threatened to obstruct the electoral process if the Government failed to pay the outstanding demobilization allowances envisaged in the fourth supplementary agreement to the Ouagadougou Political Agreement. Protests by militia groups were reported in Adjamé and Daloa. On 21 September, an ex-militia group in Bangolo threatened to take UNOCI personnel hostage if their demands were not met. On 7 October, militia elements in Duékoué staged

demonstrations, which resulted in the disruption of preparations for a political rally by members of the ruling party Front populaire ivoirien (FPI). Similar incidents were registered in Guiglo and Toulepleu, where militia elements attempted to prevent political parties from carrying out their activities.

4. In addition, political divergences related to the elections reportedly caused ethnic and social tensions to resurface. Following the 31 October election, which was conducted peacefully, there were reports of politically motivated targeting of certain ethnic groups in the Daloa area, where youth groups threatened and destroyed the property of supporters of presidential candidate Alassane Ouattara of the Rassemblement des républicains (RDR) party. In addition, members of the Federation estudiantine et scolaire de Côte d'Ivoire reportedly threatened some of the staff of the Independent Electoral Commission in Abidjan. It was also reported that, following the 31 October polls, text messages inciting xenophobia and ethnic divisions were disseminated in Abidjan and other parts of the country.

III. Status of the implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement

5. In the last progress report, the Secretary-General noted that the establishment of the final voters list, which was certified by his Special Representative, was a major breakthrough in the Ivorian peace process. It paved the way for millions of Ivorian people to receive national identity and voter cards and for the first round of the presidential elections, which was held on 31 October following a generally peaceful electoral campaign period. Although progress was registered with respect to disarmament and other aspects of the reunification of the country, a number of tasks outlined in the fourth supplementary agreement to the Ouagadougou Political Agreement remain incomplete.

A. Elections and certification

Developments towards the holding of the elections

6. During the weeks prior to the first round of the presidential election on 31 October, political parties and most of the candidates conducted a number of meetings and pre-campaign activities in a relatively peaceful manner throughout the country. In addition, a number of high-level delegations visited Côte d'Ivoire to demonstrate support for the country as it headed towards this milestone in the peace process. A delegation from the African Union visited Côte d'Ivoire to assess the situation in the country from 27 September to 1 October, followed by visits from President John Atta Mills of Ghana on 9 October and President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia on 25 October.

7. While electoral preparations remained on track following the establishment of the final voters list in September, a controversy over polling procedures in the days leading up to the election and many logistical challenges relating to the distribution of the electoral material had to be surmounted. On 21 October, the Independent Electoral Commission announced a procedural change with regard to the tabulation and transmission of the results from the polling stations. The Commission decided to tabulate the results manually rather than electronically, following claims by some

Commission members that the private company contracted to carry out the electronic operation was too close to the ruling FPI party. Following consultations with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the Special Representative of the Facilitator, President Compaore of Burkina Faso and the Independent Electoral Commission, Prime Minister Soro announced on 24 October that the transmission and tabulation of the results would be conducted electronically, as initially planned, given that a change in the procedure at such a late stage could hamper the electoral process. A committee of experts, including representatives of the Prime Minister, the Independent Electoral Commission, the Facilitator, a private Swiss technology company and UNOCI, was established to ensure transparency in the tabulation process. On 26 October, the Prime Minister clarified publicly that the results would be transmitted both physically and electronically.

Electoral operations

8. The Independent Electoral Commission was generally successful in overcoming logistical challenges in the weeks leading up to the election day, with the support of UNOCI and the United Nations country team. With regard to the distribution of electoral materials, priority was given to the distribution of 5,725,720 voter cards and 5,932,999 national identity cards, beginning on 6 October. Owing to delays in the distribution process, UNOCI transported the cards not only to the sub-prefectures and the 415 offices of the local electoral commissions, but also to the 10,179 polling sites, in an effort to accelerate the distribution. A number of challenges, including the distribution of batches of cards to the wrong destination and individual cards not being found at the appropriate site, were largely resolved by the Commission. By the time the polls opened on 31 October, most of the voters had collected their cards. Prudently, the Commission also made arrangements to allow voters to collect the remaining cards at the polling stations on the day of the elections.

9. UNOCI and the United Nations country team also assisted the Commission in transporting other electoral materials to the 415 local electoral commissions. The distribution of the non-sensitive electoral materials, including ballot boxes, polling booths and electoral kits was conducted from 8 to 11 October. After local printing companies had completed printing the ballot papers in accordance with the electoral code, the distribution of sensitive electoral materials, including the ballot papers and indelible ink was begun on 23 October. The Operation and the United Nations country team also coordinated the construction, by local authorities, of some 3,250 temporary shelters for open-air polling stations, which were financed by Japan. In total, UNOCI prepared and packed, in its two main warehouses in Abidjan and Yamoussoukro, nearly 400 tons of electoral cargo for distribution to the 81 national departments and used its military, police and logistic capacity to distribute the materials in a short period of time, in support of the national authorities organizing the elections.

The electoral campaign

10. On 15 October, the Independent Electoral Commission officially launched the two-week campaign for the presidential elections, which took place in a generally peaceful atmosphere. The three main candidates, President Laurent Gbagbo of la Majorité Présidentielle alliance, former President Henri Konan Bédié of the Parti démocratique de Côte d'Ivoire (PDCI) party and former Prime Minister Alassane Ouattara of the RDR party, campaigned throughout the country, while most of the

other 11 candidates concentrated their campaign activities in their respective strongholds.

11. The campaign was conducted in a generally peaceful and free atmosphere. However, tensions between opposing camps, in particular between FPI and RDR supporters, were apparent; there were isolated minor clashes in Bouaflé, Daloa, Guiglo, Katiola and Niablé (near Abengourou), and electoral campaign posters were destroyed in some areas. While some opposition candidates, including Mr. Bédié and Mr. Mabri Toikeusse of the party Union pour la démocratie et pour la paix en Côte d'Ivoire (UDPCI), denounced alleged unequal media coverage of the candidates by State-controlled media, candidates' access to State media significantly improved during the official electoral campaign, in comparison to the preceding period. Access was regulated by the Conseil national de la presse and the Conseil national de la communication audiovisuelle. The former reported seven violations, which were subsequently sanctioned, and the latter suspended a community radio station for 15 days for having covered electoral campaign activities of candidates, in violation of applicable regulations.

Election day and the announcement of the results

12. On 31 October, the presidential elections were held in a generally peaceful and orderly manner. A total of 4,843,445 persons, 83.73 per cent of the 5,725,720 of those registered to vote, participated, including a high turnout of women. The polls were observed by representatives of the candidates and thousands of national observers and political party representatives, as well as 423 international observers. The African Union, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the West African Economic and Monetary Union, the European Union, the International Organization of la Francophonie, the Carter Center, the African Caribbean and Pacific Group of States and the diplomatic missions of Japan and the United States of America were among the entities fielding observer missions.

13. Technical problems were encountered at some polling stations, mostly related to the late arrival of some polling station staff, lack of understanding of procedures or the late arrival of election materials. As a result, some polling stations opened late; however, voters who were present at the time the polling stations were closing were given sufficient time to cast their vote. United Nations teams, comprising a total of 623 staff, visited polling sites throughout the country on election day to monitor the process and help the staff of the Independent Electoral Commission to quickly identify and resolve any problems.

14. The security situation remained calm throughout the country on polling day. Only minor security incidents were reported. The Ivorian security forces effectively provided security, supported by the impartial forces of UNOCI and Licorne, both in the south and in the north, in accordance with the security plan of the Integrated Command Centre, which had been signed in early October. The situation in the border areas remained calm. Prior to and on voting day, UNOCI carried out enhanced patrolling in critical areas. In addition, the commanders of the Ivorian defence and security forces, the Forces nouvelles, the Integrated Command Centre, UNOCI and the Licorne force held regular meetings before the polls to refine security arrangements, and used the command centre in Yamassoukrou to enhance coordination arrangements.

15. On election day, a total of 6,600 members of the Integrated Command Centre (out of the 8,000 envisaged by the fourth supplementary agreement to the Ouagadougou Political Agreement) were deployed in 21 mixed units in the central, western and northern parts of the country. While there were only 1,100 members of the Centre operating under its command prior to the elections, an additional 5,300 (2,500 from the Forces nouvelles and 2,800 from the Force de Défense et de Sécurité) police and gendarmes were deployed on 30 October. However, lack of adequate equipment and transport remained an issue of concern. After the 31 October elections, the additional police remained for approximately one week in the mixed brigades before returning to their respective units. They are expected to be redeployed prior to the second round of elections on 28 November.

16. The counting of the ballots began immediately after some 20,000 polling stations closed and was witnessed by representatives of the candidates, as well as national and international observers. Tally sheets were then transported to the offices of the departmental and regional electoral commissions, from where the materials were brought to the tabulation centre in Abidjan. Some delays were encountered in transporting the tally sheets from the polling stations to the offices of the local electoral commissions because of lack of transport, the failure of the electronic transmission in some locations and the refusal of some polling staff to submit the official results before they received their outstanding allowances. In addition, a few irregularities were reported, including theft and obstruction of ballot papers. However, none of these irregularities had a significant impact on the outcome of the vote. The Operation provided logistical support, which was critical in reducing the delays and ensuring that all tally sheets arrived in Abidjan by 3 November. Demonstrations by polling staff demanding outstanding payments continued in the weeks following the 31 October polling date.

17. In a statement issued on 1 November, the Secretary-General commended the Ivorian people for having exercised their right to vote in a peaceful manner and called on the Ivorian parties and candidates to accept the proclaimed and certified results and to settle any complaints through the legally established mechanisms. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General conveyed the same message in his meetings with the three major candidates.

18. In separate statements issued on 1 and 2 November, the international observers, while acknowledging some shortcomings, expressed overall satisfaction with the conduct of the election and noted that they had been impressed by the strong voter turnout and the absence of any major incident. The observers identified some logistical and procedural difficulties, including delays in the delivery of essential election materials throughout the country, lack of training of some polling staff and insufficient distribution of information to voters regarding procedures on election day. Some international observers also reported that they had been denied access to observe the counting process in some polling stations. However, they noted that overall, candidates had been given equal access to the media during the official campaign period, including on Ivorian public television, and that the atmosphere during the campaign period had remained calm.

19. The period between the elections on 31 October and the announcement of the provisional results was rife with speculation about the counting and tabulation of the vote, which contributed to some tensions. In Abidjan, on 3 November, the Chief of Staff of the Forces de Défense et de Sécurité, General Philippe Mangou, called on

the population to return to their occupations and to maintain calm. The first partial results were published by the Independent Electoral Commission on the evening of 2 November. On 3 November, the party of Mr. Bédié, PDCI, issued a statement in which it alleged irregularities and lack of transparency in the tallying process and inconsistencies in the results. The party called on the Commission to halt the announcement of the provisional results and requested a recount of the vote.

20. In the early hours of 4 November, the Commission announced the provisional results of the presidential elections. President Gbagbo obtained 38.04 per cent of the vote, followed by Mr. Ouattara (32.07 per cent), Mr. Bédié (25.24 per cent) and the other 11 candidates, who obtained a combined total of some 4 per cent. No single candidate garnered an absolute majority of the vote, which is required by the Constitution to win in the first round of the elections.

21. Supporters of Mr. Bédié demonstrated near the party's headquarters in Abidjan on 4 November in protest against alleged irregularities in the process, although without resorting to violence. The party of Mr. Mabri Toikeusse, UDPCI, joined the call for a recount on 4 November. On 5 November, about 500 PDCI supporters conducted a peaceful demonstration in Daoukro, Mr. Bédié's stronghold, to express their dissatisfaction with the results of the presidential elections. Smaller demonstrations by PDCI supporters have continued, and members of FPI have reportedly expressed concerns regarding irregularities during the electoral process. On 6 November, the opposition alliance Rassemblement des houphouëtistes pour la démocratie et la paix (RHDP) issued a statement alleging "serious irregularities" in the first round, in which Mr. Ouattara joined PDCI's call for a recount.

22. These allegations derive from the difference in the total number of polling stations and the total number of tally sheets (namely, there were 20,073 polling stations, but only 19,854 tally sheets on election day); this was due to the merging of polling stations in large public buildings and the cancellation of tally sheets and some polling stations overseas. In addition, there was a discrepancy in the number of registered voters (5,725,720 on the final voters list and 5,784,490 in the announcement of the provisional results, a discrepancy of 58,770), which arose from security and electoral personnel voting at the polling stations where they worked instead of their place of registration. As a result, some polling stations produced tally sheets with more votes than registered voters.

23. On 6 November, the Constitutional Council proclaimed the final results of the first round of the presidential elections, validating the provisional results announced by the Independent Electoral Commission. In accordance with the Constitution, President Gbagbo and Mr. Ouattara, as the two candidates with the highest percentage of the vote, albeit with neither winning an absolute majority, would contest in a run-off presidential election. According to the President of the Constitutional Council, no appeals were filed with the Council within the legal time frame; however, that has been disputed by the opposition parties. The Council further indicated that a second round of presidential elections had been scheduled for 21 November. However, on 9 November, Prime Minister Soro announced after a cabinet meeting that, owing to technical and logistical challenges, the second round of the presidential elections would be held on 28 November, as initially scheduled. President Gbagbo signed the relevant decree on the same day. On 10 November, the Independent Electoral Commission issued a communiqué indicating that the electoral campaign for the second round of the presidential elections would take

place from 20 to 26 November, and called on the candidates to conduct as peaceful and orderly a campaign as in the first round.

24. On 7 November, RHDP issued a statement in which Mr. Bédié called on his supporters to vote for Mr. Ouattara in the second round, and on 10 November Mr. Ouattara publicly pledged to share power with Mr. Bédié if he won.

Certification

25. In keeping with paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1765 (2007), the Special Representative of the Secretary-General explicitly certified the results of the first round of the presidential elections on 12 November. The certification was based on the "five-criteria framework for certification", referred to in paragraph 32 of the sixteenth progress report on UNOCI (S/2008/250). The framework defines broad benchmarks that enable the Special Representative to assess whether: (a) a secure environment exists during the period leading to the elections and allows for the full participation of the population and the candidates in the process; (b) the electoral process is inclusive; (c) all candidates have equitable access to State-controlled media and whether the latter remains neutral; (d) the voters list is credible and accepted by all parties; and (e) the results of the elections are determined through a transparent counting process and are accepted.

26. The Special Representative closely monitored and assessed the process, including the registration of candidates, the distribution of voter cards and national identity cards, the polling operations, the announcement of provisional results by the Independent Electoral Commission, and the proclamation of the final results by the Constitutional Council. After a thorough analysis and evaluation of the final results of the first round of the presidential elections, he arrived at the conclusion that the process as a whole, from the beginning through to the proclamation of the final results had been peaceful and democratic and that the results of the elections had been determined through a transparent process. Reported irregularities were of a minor nature and had not affected the results in any significant way.

B. Reunification of the country and security-related issues

27. The fourth supplementary agreement to the Ouagadougou Political Agreement, signed on 22 December 2008, sets out the modalities for aspects related to the reunification of the country, including the storage of weapons of the former combatants of the ex-belligerent forces; the dismantling of the militias; the re-launch of the process to reunify the Ivorian defence and security forces and the Forces nouvelles; and the completion of the effective redeployment of State administration throughout the country, including the *corps préfectoral* (local authorities), the judiciary and the fiscal and customs administrations.

28. Important steps were taken with regard to disarmament and other aspects of the reunification of the country during the reporting period, including the launching of the cantonment process of former Forces nouvelles combatants in Bouaké, Korhogo, Man and Séguéla; the commencement of payments of demobilization allowances to former combatants in a number of locations; and the joint deployment of Forces nouvelles and Government customs officers to border locations.

29. On 28 August, the Facilitator, President Compaoré of Burkina Faso, noted with satisfaction the ongoing efforts to implement the remaining tasks envisaged in the fourth supplementary agreement to the Ouagadougou Political Agreement. In addition, the Permanent Consultative Framework, which held a meeting in Ouagadougou on 21 September under the auspices of the Facilitator and with the participation of President Gbagbo, Prime Minister Soro and the opposition party leaders, Mr. Bédié and Mr. Ouattara, issued a communiqué noting the progress made with respect to the reunification of the country, in particular, the operations to canton Forces nouvelles elements in Bouaké, Korhogo, Man and Séguéla. It also commended the progress made in restoring State authority, including the deployment of customs officers to Bouaké, Ferkessédougou, Korhogo, Man, Ouangolodougou and Pogo, and urged the Ivorian parties to complete the tasks envisaged in the fourth supplementary agreement. With regard to voter registration, the Permanent Consultative Framework also stated that the 55,000 persons whose identity could not be verified owing to technical reasons should be given the opportunity to submit their cases to an ad hoc technical body that would be established after the elections.

30. A significant number of tasks stipulated in the Agreement that relate to disarmament and the reunification of the country remain uncompleted, including the disarmament of former combatants of the Forces nouvelles and the dismantling of militia; the reunification of the Ivorian defence and security forces; the restoration of State authority throughout the country, including the redeployment of the *corps préfectoral*, the judiciary and the fiscal and customs administrators; and the centralization of the treasury.

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants and dismantling of militias

31. Operations for the disarmament and cantonment of 5,000 former Forces nouvelles combatants earmarked to join the Ivorian armed forces were officially launched in Bouaké on 27 August, in Korhogo on 15 June, in Man on 24 August, and in Séguéla on 20 August and continued during the reporting period. By 31 October, 3,629 of the 5,000 individuals to be integrated into the new army, as stipulated in the fourth supplementary agreement, were cantoned in all four sites. Despite the logistic support provided by UNOCI, there were certain difficulties, notably with regard to insufficient resources for the operation of the cantonment sites and support for the former combatants. These difficulties have led to a situation where the majority of former combatants are not cantoned on a sustained basis. In parallel to the cantonment process, the Forces nouvelles command zones were reorganized and reduced from 10 to 4 so-called "instruction groups", namely in Bouaké, Korhogo, Man and Séguéla.

32. Meanwhile, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former Forces nouvelles combatants continued during the reporting period. There are 32,777 registered former combatants: 23,777 are to be demobilized; 5,000 are to be incorporated into the new army; and 4,000 should be part of the Integrated Command Centre. By 31 October, some 17,601 combatants had been demobilized. However, only a limited number of weapons, most of them unserviceable, were collected during the disarmament process. These weapons have been stored in secure United Nations premises. In September, the Government commenced payment of demobilization allowances to former Forces nouvelles combatants in

Bouna, Boundiali and Korhogo. A total of 1,170 demobilized combatants were paid 100,000 CFA francs ($200) each. Payments were extended to other instruction groups and are expected to continue after the elections. Meanwhile, on 10 November, demobilized former combatants and people affected by the conflict gathered in Bouaké to request payment of the reinsertion allowances.

33. While the disarmament and dismantling of militias remained stalled, with only 17,301 out of 37,451 profiled militia members having been dismantled, the payment of demobilization allowances to Forces nouvelles members prompted militia groups to demand payment of outstanding allowances in the amount of some 500,000 CFA francs ($1,000) each, as provided for in the fourth supplementary agreement. Protests by ex-militia groups were reported in Adjame, Bangolo and Daloa.

34. The first phase of the 1,000 microprojects initiative financed by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund was completed earlier in 2010, with 539 projects providing reinsertion opportunities for 3,637 beneficiaries. A second phase of the programme started in September 2010, with an additional $1 million from the Peacebuilding Fund, the programme will direct benefit over 1,200 former Forces nouvelles combatants, militia members, communities and vulnerable groups affected by the conflict, and youths at risk.

Restoration of State authority and centralization of the treasury

35. Limited progress was made towards the centralization of the State treasury. Forces nouvelles authorities continued to levy and collect taxes and customs revenues. Meanwhile, a two-day training of former Forces nouvelles combatants was conducted on 29 July, with a view to incorporating them into the national customs service. Ceremonies were held in Ouangolodougou in Pogo on 7 September and in Bouaké, Ferkessédougou and Korhogo on 8 September, to mark the deployment of a total of 138 customs officers from the Forces nouvelles. However, they are not yet fully operational, as the Forces nouvelles maintain their control over these areas and continue to collect illegal taxes. Meanwhile, the eight seconded customs officers to be deployed by UNOCI to provide advice and support to the redeployed national customs officials in the north are being recruited.

36. With regard to the judiciary, the courts that had closed following demonstrations in February 2010 (the Man first instance tribunal and the Katiola auxiliary court), as described in the Secretary-General's report of May 2010 (S/2010/245), reopened in August 2010 and were able to handle the appeals process on the provisional voters list. Although all 11 courts in the north have now officially reopened, the Bouaké court of appeal is still not operational, owing to a continuing inability to attain the quorum of judges. Furthermore, in the absence of properly functioning judicial police officers and security forces, the courts are not in a position to deal with any criminal matters. Meanwhile, the redeployment of Ivorian penitentiary staff to prison facilities in the north is pending.

IV. Deployment of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire

A. Military component

37. As at 22 November, the military strength of UNOCI stood at 7,750 personnel, including 7,474 troops, 183 military observers and 93 staff officers, against an authorized ceiling of 7,792, including 400 additional troops for a period of up to six months to reinforce security during the electoral period, as authorized by Security Council resolution 1942 (2010). The deployment of one additional company in Yamoussoukro (200 troops) and one additional company in Abidjan (200 troops) was completed on 18 October.

38. Further to resolution 1933 (2010) and as recommended in the Secretary-General's report of May 2010, the reconfiguration of the military component to make it more responsive was completed as at 30 September. This involved adjusting the current troop deployment in order to increase troop concentrations in critical areas. To that end, the infantry company in Dabakala was redeployed to Bouaké to reinforce the sector reserve, and the UNOCI reserve battalion in Yamassoukro was restructured to create one additional combat platoon. In addition, a military aviation unit equipped with three light military utility helicopters was deployed to the west, in Daloa, partially filling UNOCI's existing military aviation capability gap.

39. Further to the measures already taken to reinforce UNOCI prior to the elections, as authorized by the Security Council in its resolution 1942 (2010), and although the security situation in Côte d'Ivoire has remained calm since the 31 October election, the Operation continued to consider options for further reinforcement, should that prove necessary during the remainder of the electoral process. The Secretariat is therefore exploring the possibility of a temporary transfer of troops and aviation assets from the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to UNOCI, as required, within the framework of the inter-mission cooperation arrangements provided for in paragraphs 4 to 6 of Security Council resolution 1609 (2005) and paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1938 (2010).

40. During the reporting period, the military component carried out its mandated tasks of protecting United Nations personnel, equipment and installations through patrols and static guard duties. In addition, it assisted the Independent Electoral Commission in transporting and distributing electoral materials throughout the country prior to the elections, and in collecting sensitive electoral materials after the vote. In line with its electoral security tasks, the Operation assisted the Integrated Command Centre and worked closely with the Ivorian defence and security forces and the French Licorne force, to maintain a secure environment for the first round of the presidential elections on 31 October.

41. The strength of the French Licorne force remains at 900 troops deployed in the Abidjan area. By its resolution 1933 (2010), the Security Council extended its authorization for Licorne to provide support to UNOCI, within the limits of its deployment and capabilities, until 31 December 2010. In addition to the protection of key installations in Abidjan, including the airport, Licorne continued to support UNOCI, within its capacities, in providing support to the Ivorian security forces.

B. Police component

42. As at 19 November, the police strength of UNOCI stood at 1,329, including 433 police advisers, 20 of whom are women, and 896 officers in six formed police units, against an authorized ceiling of 1,450. In its resolution 1942 (2010), the Security Council increased the strength of the formed police units by 500 officers for a period of up to six months, to reinforce security arrangements during the elections. These additional formed police unit officers completed their deployment on 18 October. In addition, pursuant to resolution 1933 (2010) and as recommended in the Secretary-General's report of May 2010, the strength of the military and police components was rebalanced, with an additional 50 police officers being added to existing formed police units.

43. The Operation's police component continued to provide advice and logistical support to the Ivorian police and other law enforcement agencies, and to the Integrated Command Centre, in particular through training and co-location in the northern and western parts of the country. In partnership with donors, the UNOCI police component continued to develop and implement capacity-building projects for the Ivorian law enforcement agencies in such areas as training, forensic science and police ethics. The UNOCI police also carried out several training workshops for Ivorian law enforcement agencies on election security, with an emphasis on riot control and public order management.

V. Human rights

44. The human rights situation in the country remains an issue of concern. In both the northern and southern parts of the country, elements of the Ivorian defence and security forces subjected civilians to summary executions, torture and ill-treatment, arbitrary detention and extortion. Impunity remains a concern, although ten members of the national security forces, including one police officer, six gendarmes and three customs officers, accused of racketeering, extortion and harassment of citizens, were indicted by the military tribunal and the Abidjan criminal court during the reporting period.

45. The human rights situation remained particularly precarious in the west. This was related in part to inter-community tensions over access to land and to violations committed by bandits. Several instances of arbitrary arrest and charges of racketeering and extortion of money and goods against non-native residents, notably in the Bondoukou area, were reported.

46. In the northern part of the country, respect for human rights remained generally poor. Forces nouvelles committed at least 37 serious human rights violations, including arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and ill-treatment. Six members of Forces nouvelles accused of being involved in the 19 May killing of the chief of security for the Boundiali-Korhogo Forces nouvelles sub-zone were severely tortured by other members of Forces nouvelles before being detained at the Bouake civilian prison.

47. The Operation continued to monitor and investigate human rights violations and raise awareness about human rights norms and principles through training activities throughout the country. On 26 August, it published a report on an investigation into violent events in February 2010. Further to the Secretary-

General's report of May 2010, UNOCI and the United Nations country team developed a comprehensive civilian protection strategy, which reaffirms UNOCI's mandate to intervene to protect civilians under imminent threat of physical violence, within its capacities and areas of deployment.

Gender

48. The Operation continued to strengthen the capacities of local authorities, community leaders and local women's groups to enhance women's participation in the peace process, raise awareness about gender issues, and reduce gender-based violence, including through various training sessions. It also provided training on gender aspects in peacekeeping to newly deployed military, police and civilian staff.

Sexual violence

49. Respect for women's and girls' rights deteriorated during the period under review, particularly in the central, western and northern parts of the country. There was a significant increase in sexual and gender-based violence, including against children. Fifty-six rapes were reported, and 11 of the perpetrators were arrested. Most of the victims were minors. UNOCI human rights officers documented five cases of forced marriage and 216 girl victims of female genital mutilation in violation of the law. In the Korhogo area, five children under the age of 2 were reported missing and later found dead.

Child protection

50. Pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009), UNOCI continued to monitor and report on grave violations against children in Côte d'Ivoire and to mainstream child protection and child rights through its regular training for military, police and civilian staff members. It also provided training to national stakeholders, including community leaders, women's groups and youth associations. In collaboration with United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organizations, UNOCI continued to assist the Government in developing a national institutional framework for child protection.

HIV/AIDS

51. The Operation conducted awareness-raising, prevention training and sensitization on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections to peacekeeping personnel, and provided voluntary confidential counselling and testing services. In partnership with the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the Integrated Command Centre and the national programme for reinsertion and community rehabilitation, UNOCI continued to implement its joint project to sensitize 680 former combatants on HIV/AIDS issues, and provided volguntary individual counselling and testing services to 116 former combatants. It also worked with the Government to build the capacity of staff working on HIV/AIDS prevention.

VI. Rule of law

52. The Operation continued to support the redeployment of justice officials throughout the country. In coordination with the German Development Cooperation, UNOCI organized workshops bringing together magistrates and judicial police officers aimed at identifying ways to improve their communication. Another workshop focused on transitional justice and related issues, including constraints faced by the courts, the transfer of criminal cases from Forces nouvelles to the redeployed justice system, and the development of training modules for magistrates on gender issues.

53. Prison conditions remained dire, particularly in Bondoukou, Daloa, Man, Odienné, Tabou and Yamoussoukro. Six civilian detainees died in the prisons of Daloa and Tabou owing to lack of food, hygiene and access to medical services. In Korhogo, 42 prisoners escaped from the city's main prison in June and July. To date, five have been recaptured, while 37 remain at large. All the prison facilities in the north have been rehabilitated, but most remain closed. The facilities that are open remain under the control of Forces nouvelles.

VII. Humanitarian situation

54. Humanitarian activities remained focused on the reintegration and protection of internally displaced persons and returnees in the west, and on malnutrition and food security issues. By the end of October, a total of 90,000 internally displaced persons had voluntarily returned to their areas of origin in the west, according to humanitarian actors. One third settled in the departments of Bloléquin, Danané, Duékoué and Guiglo. As indicated in the Secretary-General's report of May 2010, as at 1 July, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs integrated its coordination and contingency planning capacities into the office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Abidjan and its regional office in Dakar.

VIII. Economic recovery and financial support to the peace process

55. On 9 July, the Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved the second review of the economic programme for Côte d'Ivoire under the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility and provided a budget support of $53.5 million. IMF representatives visited the country from 15 to 29 September 2010 to update the Fund's economic outlook for Côte d'Ivoire in the light of recent economic developments. They met with the Government to discuss the third review of the programme, which will focus on the implementation of economic policies during the second half of 2010 and the preparation of the reform programme for 2011.

56. Efforts by the United Nations and the international community to mobilize funds to support the implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement continued. The basket fund established and administered by UNDP to support the national *Programme de sortie de crise* continued to receive funding. To date, $3.89 million out of $5.49 million earmarked for 2010 has been disbursed in support of various initiatives envisaged in the Ouagadougou Political Agreement. The Operation continued to provide logistical and other support to the office of the Facilitator during the reporting period.

General's report of May 2010, UNOCI and the United Nations country team developed a comprehensive civilian protection strategy, which reaffirms UNOCI's mandate to intervene to protect civilians under imminent threat of physical violence, within its capacities and areas of deployment.

Gender

48. The Operation continued to strengthen the capacities of local authorities, community leaders and local women's groups to enhance women's participation in the peace process, raise awareness about gender issues, and reduce gender-based violence, including through various training sessions. It also provided training on gender aspects in peacekeeping to newly deployed military, police and civilian staff.

Sexual violence

49. Respect for women's and girls' rights deteriorated during the period under review, particularly in the central, western and northern parts of the country. There was a significant increase in sexual and gender-based violence, including against children. Fifty-six rapes were reported, and 11 of the perpetrators were arrested. Most of the victims were minors. UNOCI human rights officers documented five cases of forced marriage and 216 girl victims of female genital mutilation in violation of the law. In the Korhogo area, five children under the age of 2 were reported missing and later found dead.

Child protection

50. Pursuant to Security Council resolutions 1612 (2005) and 1882 (2009), UNOCI continued to monitor and report on grave violations against children in Côte d'Ivoire and to mainstream child protection and child rights through its regular training for military, police and civilian staff members. It also provided training to national stakeholders, including community leaders, women's groups and youth associations. In collaboration with United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organizations, UNOCI continued to assist the Government in developing a national institutional framework for child protection.

HIV/AIDS

51. The Operation conducted awareness-raising, prevention training and sensitization on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections to peacekeeping personnel, and provided voluntary confidential counselling and testing services. In partnership with the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the Integrated Command Centre and the national programme for reinsertion and community rehabilitation, UNOCI continued to implement its joint project to sensitize 680 former combatants on HIV/AIDS issues, and provided voluntary individual counselling and testing services to 116 former combatants. It also worked with the Government to build the capacity of staff working on HIV/AIDS prevention.

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IX. Media monitoring and public information

57. During the period under review, UNOCI, in partnership with the national Ministry of Communication and with regulatory institutions, pursued its training and sensitization programme for Ivorian media practitioners, including journalists and staff from non-profit radio stations, on the role of the media and media coverage modalities during the electoral period. Through its radio station, it continued to sensitize the population on the peace process in general, placing special emphasis on the electoral process and the modalities of participation. The Operation also pursued its outreach activities aimed at strengthening social cohesion within and among communities and contributing to a peaceful environment throughout the electoral period.

X. Personnel conduct and discipline

58. The Operation continued to implement strategies complying with the Secretary-General's zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse, emphasizing preventive measures through regular induction and refresher training for all UNOCI personnel. To build awareness of sexual exploitation and abuse and community-based reporting mechanisms, UNOCI provided training and sensitization materials to community and religious leaders, local authorities, and women's and youth groups living in close proximity to the United Nations installations.

XI. Safety and security of personnel

59. Incidents resulting from a fragile security environment, such as urban crime, roadside banditry, extortion, rape and murder, remained prevalent and posed the greatest security threat to United Nations personnel. In the north, there was an increase in targeted incidents against United Nations staff members. In Bouaké, two international staff members were robbed at gunpoint in their residence. Another staff member was physically assaulted and robbed of his valuables in the street. Increased militia activities in the west, which included threats against United Nations personnel, are a concern for the security of United Nations personnel operating in that part of the country.

XII. Financial aspects

60. By its resolution 64/273, the General Assembly appropriated the amount of $485.1 million for the maintenance of the Operation for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011. Should the Security Council decide to extend the Operation's mandate beyond 31 December 2010, the cost of maintaining the Operation until 30 June 2011 would be limited to the amounts approved by the General Assembly. As at 10 November 2010, unpaid assessed contributions to the special account for UNOCI amounted to $67.8 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at that date amounted to $2,922 million. Contributing Governments have been reimbursed for troop and police costs for the period up to

31 August 2010 and for contingent-owned equipment costs for the period up to 30 June 2010.

XIII. Observations

61. The 31 October polls marked a historic day for Côte d'Ivoire. The Secretary-General commends the Ivorian people and the political parties and their leaders for their respect for human rights and democratic principles, as well as their commitment to resolving the longstanding Ivorian crisis and restoring lasting peace and security during the electoral process thus far. The holding of elections is an important milestone in the Ivorian peace process, and the massive voter turnout at the first round of the presidential elections on 31 October, as well as the peaceful atmosphere in which the electoral campaign and the voting were conducted, are a true testament to the patience, political will and conviction of the Ivorian people to move towards a better future. The Secretary-General commends the national institutions, including the Independent Electoral Commission and national and international partners, for effectively meeting the challenges and ensuring that the elections could be held as scheduled. The support provided by UNOCI and the United Nations country team to the national electoral entities deserves a particular note of appreciation.

62. The positive assessment by all international observers and the absence of any major security incidents on election day are encouraging developments. A run-off election between President Laurent Gbagbo and former Prime Minister Alassane Ouattara, who came in first and second, respectively, is needed to elect the next President of Côte d'Ivoire. A number of challenges lie ahead. The Secretary-General is confident that they can be met by the Ivorian people, who rose magnificently to the occasion on 31 October and will do so again, with the support the international community. It is essential that the Independent Electoral Commission build on progress made thus far in order to ensure that the second round will be as successful as the first. The presence of national and international observers during the voting will be critical in ensuring that the elections are open, free, fair and transparent.

63. Millions of Ivorians have finally received their national identity cards; this is a critical step in addressing the identification issue, which has been at the centre of the conflict. The identification process is essential for the long-term stability of Côte d'Ivoire, and the Secretary-General calls on all Ivorian parties to continue the identification process, including after the elections.

64. The Secretary-General congratulates the candidates and their supporters for having accepted the results proclaimed by the Constitutional Council and urges all Ivorians to preserve a calm political and security environment and to continue demonstrating respect for democratic principles in proceeding to the next round and beyond. The Secretary-General urges all candidates and parties once again to strictly adhere to the electoral code of conduct signed in April 2008 in Abidjan under his auspices, as Côte d'Ivoire proceeds towards the second round of the presidential elections and during the remainder of the electoral process, including the legislative elections. Any election-related disputes must be resolved through the legally established mechanisms. The certification mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General remains an important safeguard. He will continue to closely

follow developments, in consultation with key stakeholders, to fulfil his certification mandate throughout the electoral process, which includes the legislative elections.

65. The Secretary-General also welcomes the peaceful environment that has prevailed thus far, which is a credit not only to all security services, but also to the population, and strongly urges all stakeholders to maintain this positive environment and continue to resist any attempts to influence the peace process through violent means. The Operation will continue to work closely with the Ivorian security services and Licorne to ensure that a calm and peaceful environment prevails throughout the electoral period and beyond, and that any spoilers are prevented from undermining the process.

66. While the Secretary-General welcomes the improved access to State-controlled media for all candidates during the electoral campaign, he remains concerned that the media can still play a negative role in fanning political tensions and inciting violence. He is also concerned about reports of unacceptable rhetoric. As Côte d'Ivoire stands on the brink of reaching a milestone on the long path from conflict to peace, such divisiveness should belong in the past. The Secretary-General calls on all stakeholders to reject such rhetoric and to hold those who engage in it accountable through the appropriate mechanisms.

67. Looking beyond the second round of the presidential elections, the Secretary-General urges Ivorian leaders and their supporters to respect the outcome of the elections and to enter the next phase in a spirit of reconciliation, with the aim of installing the newly elected institutions without delay. It is important to move away from the divisive politics of the past, in order to ensure that these institutions may be able to lead the country in implementing the remaining tasks of the peace process for the good of the country and the benefit of all Ivorians.

68. The Secretary-General remains concerned about the increase of sexual violence and continuing reports of human rights violations. It is essential for the well-being of the population and society in general to safeguard fundamental rights and freedoms. He therefore calls on the Ivorian parties to develop and implement necessary measures to prevent human rights violations and address impunity.

69. The electoral cycle will be completed with the conduct of parliamentary elections. The Operation will continue to provide support for the preparations for these important legislative elections, which the Secretary-General hopes will be organized in a timely manner. Although the successful conclusion of the electoral cycle represents a critical step in the peace process and will provide a basis for a drawdown of UNOCI, the elections on their own will not provide a solution to the Ivorian crisis. The Ivorian parties should commit themselves to completing the remaining aspects of the peace process, particularly the reunification-related tasks set out in the fourth supplementary agreement to the Ouagadougou Political Agreement, and to rebuilding their country.

70. In paragraph 26 of its resolution 1933 (2010), the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare a new set of benchmarks for a possible drawdown of UNOCI, taking fully into account the necessary consolidation of the stability of the country. In paragraph 29 of the same resolution, the Council also expressed its intention to review, by 31 December, the mandate, structure and strength of UNOCI, as well as the authorization provided to Licorne and the benchmarks referred to in paragraph 26, and to consider all options including those listed in the Secretary-

General's report of May 2010, in the light of the consolidation of the stability of the situation, the implementation of the key steps of the peace process, the status of elections, and the political will demonstrated by the Ivorian parties. Taking into account the political will shown by the parties thus far and the anticipated conduct of the second round of the presidential election on 28 November, and considering that the legislative elections are expected to take place in early 2011, the Secretariat and UNOCI will consult the newly elected Government regarding the implementation of the remaining key steps of the peace process and prepare the requested new set of benchmarks for the drawdown of UNOCI, as well as proposals for the United Nations post-election presence in Côte d'Ivoire, which the Secretary-General intends to present, for the Council's consideration, in a report to be submitted by 31 March 2010. The Secretary-General thus recommends the extension of the Operation's mandate, at its authorized strength, for a further period of four months, until 30 April 2011, on the understanding that an additional extension of the mandate for an appropriate period would be proposed on the basis of an assessment of the evolving security situation, as well as the prospects of consolidating the stability of the country following the completion of the electoral cycle and the proposals to be included in the above-mentioned Secretary-General's report regarding the post-election role of the United Nations in Côte d'Ivoire.

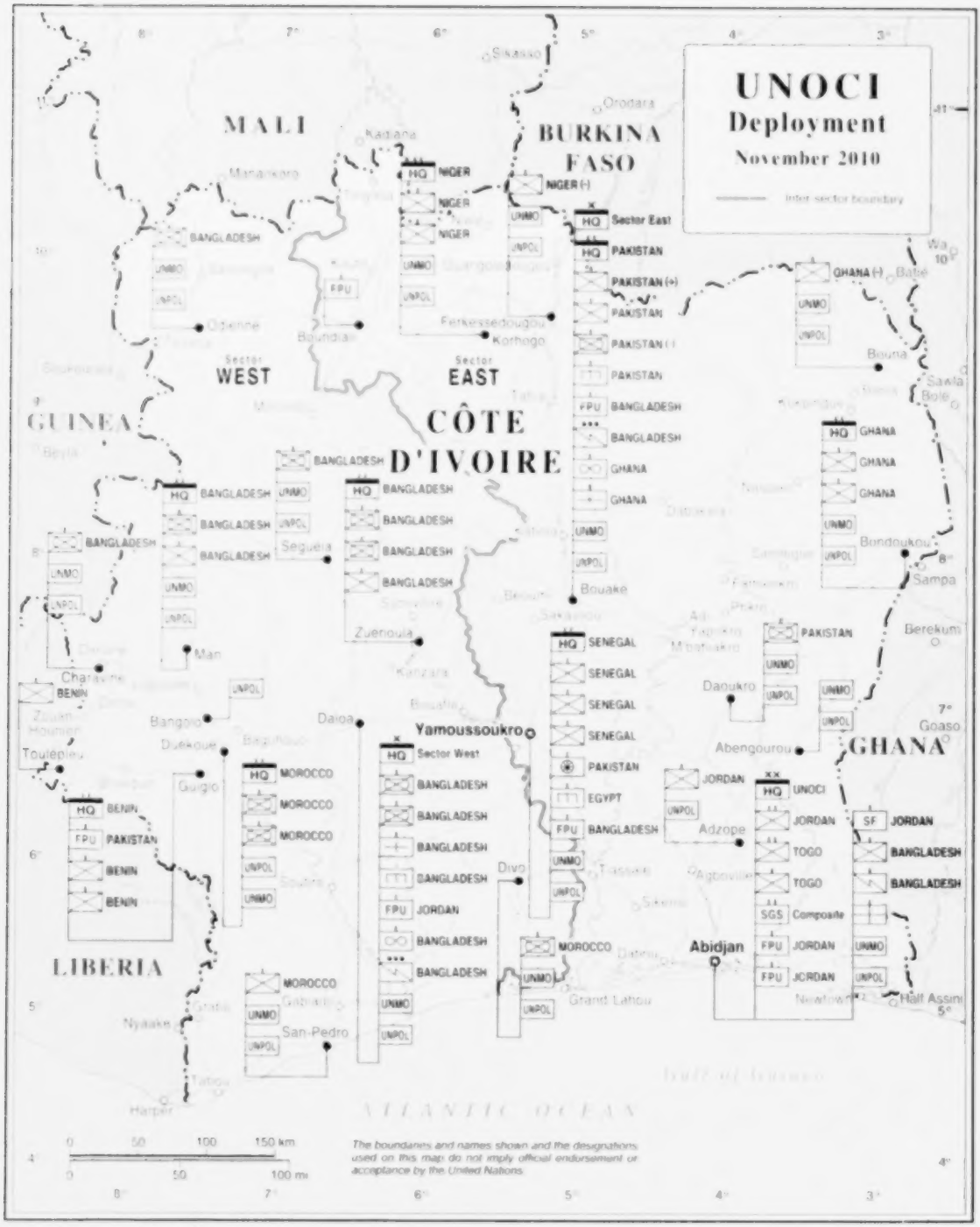
71. In conclusion, the Secretary-General would like to thank his Special Representative, Choi Young-Jin, and all UNOCI military, police and civilian personnel for their continued commitment and dedication to supporting the peace process. He is also grateful to the Facilitator of the Ivorian peace process, Blaise Compaoré, President of Burkina Faso, and his Special Representative in Abidjan, Boureima Badini, for their tireless facilitation efforts. Lastly, he would like to extend his appreciation to all troop- and police-contributing countries, the Economic Community of West African States, the African Union, the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, humanitarian organizations and multilateral and bilateral donors, and international and national non-governmental organizations for their important contributions to restoring lasting peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire.

Annex

United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire: military and police strength as at 19 November 2010

	Military component				*Police component*	
Country	*Military observers*	*Staff officers*	*Troops*	*Total*	*Formed police units*	*Civilian police*
Argentina	—	—	—	—	—	3
Bangladesh	13	12	2 103	2 128	297	1
Benin	5	7	420	432	—	52
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	3	—	—	3	—	—
Brazil	4	3	—	7	—	—
Burundi	—	—	—	—	—	14
Cameroon	—	—	—	—	—	50
Canada	—	—	—	—	—	5
Central African Republic	—	—	—	—	—	16
Chad	3	1	—	4	—	32
China	6	—	—	6	—	—
Djibouti	—	—	—	—	—	40
Democratic Republic of the Congo	—	—	—	—	—	27
Ecuador	2	—	—	2	—	—
Egypt	—	1	175	176	—	4
El Salvador	3	—	—	3	—	—
Ethiopia	2	—	—	2	—	—
France	—	7	—	7	—	13
Gambia	3	—	—	3	—	—
Ghana	6	9	515	530	—	14
Guatemala	5	—	—	5	—	—
Guinea	3	—	—	3	—	—
India	8	—	—	8	—	—
Ireland	2	—	—	2	—	—
Jordan	7	12	1 047	1 066	449	24
Morocco	—	3	723	726	—	—
Namibia	2	—	—	2	—	—
Nepal	3	1	—	4	—	—
Niger	6	4	382	392	—	51
Nigeria	5	—	—	5	—	—
Pakistan	11	12	1 083	1 106	150	1
Paraguay	7	2	—	9	—	—
Peru	3	—	—	3	—	—
Philippines	2	3	—	5	—	—

Country	Military component				Police component	
	Military observers	Staff officers	Troops	Total	Formed police units	Civilian police
Poland	3	—	—	3	—	—
Republic of Korea	2	—	—	2	—	—
Republic of Moldova	4	—	—	4	—	—
Romania	6	—	—	6	—	—
Russian Federation	10	—	—	10	—	—
Senegal	12	5	517	534	—	35
Serbia	3	—	—	3	—	—
Switzerland	—	—	—	—	—	4
Togo	7	6	509	522	—	20
Tunisia	7	4	—	11	—	—
Turkey	—	—	—	—	—	13
Uganda	4	—	—	4	—	—
Ukraine	—	—	—	—	—	7
United Republic of Tanzania	1	2	—	3	—	—
Uruguay	2	—	—	2	—	3
Yemen	8	1	—	9	—	4
Zambia	2	—	—	2	—	—
Zimbabwe	3	—	—	3	—	—
Total	**188**	**95**	**7 474**	**7 757**	**896**	**433**
Number of females	**(11)**	**(3)**	**(87)**	**(101)**	—	**(20)**



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